(d) whether it is also a fact that officers of the rank of Chief Commissioner and Commissioner of Income Tax are being transferred and posted by the Chairman, CBDT, without the explicit order of the Minister; and

(e) if so, what are the circumstances leading to such postings and transfers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (e) All Group 'A' officers are liable to be transferred in public interest and posted anywhere in the country. Such transfers are made keeping in view the considerations of the need to expose officers to different work conditions and their suitability, administrative needs and economy in expenditure. Transfer of Chief Commissioners of Income-tax is made with the approval of the Finance Minister. In respect of officers of the rank of Commissioners of Income-tax and below, the powers have been delegated to the Central Board of Direct Taxes. Generally, an officer is expected to move from a post after three years. In metropolises an officer may be retained in the station for eight years and in smaller cities from three to five years. In a careerspan an officer should not normally stay in a Region/ Charge for more than 14 years. These guidlines are not discriminatory towards any officer.

Special tariff protection sought by pharmaceuticals industry

7784. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pharmaceuticals industry is seeking special tariff protection for five or seven years for new high-tech products as recommended by the Chelliah Committee; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Government have not received representation from the Pharmaceuticals industry seeking special tariff protection for five or seven years for new high-tech products.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Pending loan applications with IFCI in Karnataka

7785. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the term-loan application for three newly formed Sugar Cooperatives in Karnataka in which the State Government has stakes, are pending with the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) for the last six years and if so, the reasons for such delay;

(b) whether, as a precondition to IFCI clearing the term loan applications, the State Government of Karanataka had settled the overdues of the existing cooperative sugar units in the State as Guarantor; and

(c) whether the IFCI is now bent upon linking the sanctioning of term loans for new sugar factories in the cooperative sector with the clearance of overdues of the cooperative textile units in the State and if so, the rationale behind this arbitrary attitude on the part of IFCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited (IFCI) has reported that applications for these three newly formed sugar cooperatives are pending with the financial institutions since 21-11-1990, 4.1.1991 and